

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 12-24 with the following amended paragraph:

The flexible spline 70 includes a flattened portion 74 that is located within the portion of the distal member 16 that forms the apex 76 of the loop 62. The flattened portion 74 acts as a hinge and allows the portion of the catheter body 12 distal to the flattened portion to be bent back into a loop with less force than would otherwise be required. In other words, the flattened portion 74 has a flexibility in the bending direction that is greater than the adjacent portions of the flexible spline 70. The flattened portion 74 also causes the distal member 16 to bend, and the loop 62 to be formed, in a flat loop plane. The placement of the flattened portion 74 in the area that will form the apex 76 of the loop 62 also results in a much sharper bend at the apex, and a more compact loop, than would be obtained otherwise. Specifically, conventional loops often have a flattened portion near the proximal end of the loop and tend to assume a generally circular shape when deployed, while the present loop 62 in the exemplary embodiment has a generally flat, elliptical shape resulting from the location of the flattened portion 74.